

# USAID-OFDA Project

No. 519-A-00-01-00084-00

## Final Report



**SAVE THE CHILDREN® U. S. – EL SALVADOR**

Desarrollo Juvenil Comunitario

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**Save the Children AID-OFDA Temporary Shelter Project  
Project No 519-A-00-01-00084-00**

**Final Report**

**1. Introduction**

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 11:35am, El Salvador was hit by a major earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Although difficult to believe, a second earthquake that measured 6.6 hit El Salvador on February 13<sup>th</sup>, exactly one month after to the day. As a result of these two earthquakes El Salvador suffered tremendous financial, material, and human losses. According to the National Emergency Committee, El Salvador suffered the following:

Total Earthquake	Injures	People Affected	Houses Destroyed	Houses Damaged	Deaths
2	8,122	1,582,428	149,528	185,338	1,159

According to USAID estimates, the Departments of Cuscatlán, San Vicente and San Salvador suffered damage and or destruction in more than 80% off all private and public buildings. Overall, damage estimates indicate that the cost of rebuilding El Salvador will most likely exceed \$2.8 billion.

**2. Project History**

In response to this disaster, Save the Children (STC) immediately began relief efforts by combining private funds with USAID-OFDA donated materials. In the initial phase, STC received 18,008 blankets, 8,383 mattresses, 6,000 water jugs, and 425 rolls of plastic from USAID-OFDA and initiated distribution in 17 municipalities throughout nine departments. By incorporating the help of Peace Corps Volunteers, STC also managed to facilitate the construction of over 3,517 temporary shelters (OFDA plastic with out funding).

Although these temporary shelters provided an immediate solution to the housing problem that was affecting thousands of earthquake victims, STC quickly recognized the need for additional shelters as well as structural improvements within the temporary housing design. As a result, STC submitted a proposal to OFDA for 2,500 shelters that incorporated a unique design that not only improved the structural integrity of the shelters but at the same time maximized production output. Under STC's design, wooden frames were replaced with metal ones that could be assembled within a fraction of the time and plastic roofing was replaced with zinc metal sheeting.

Within weeks, OFDA approved the proposal for 2,500 shelters but wanted 2,000 of the shelters to be built with wooden frames. STC immediately began to initiate operations but soon discovered that procuring wood at both the national and regional level was nearly impossible since current demand far exceeded production capacity. As a result, STC contacted USAID-OFDA and after further evaluation OFDA agreed to have all 2,500 of the temporary structures built with metal frames.

As a result of the change, STC was forced to procure materials and labor that were not part of the original plan. This change from wood frames to metal structures for nearly 2000 units produced a slight delay in the implementation of the project.

### **3. Selection of Beneficiaries**

Immediately following the February earthquake, STC promoter's conducted damage surveys in dozens of communities within Department of Cuscatlan. Initial surveys revealed that nearly 56% of the rural population was now homeless. Based on these surveys, 10 communities were selected based on damaged sustained, access to resources, income, etc...and STC's began cross-referencing their numbers with similar surveys conducted by mayors, local churches, FISDL, and the Armed Forces. Once communities were selected, the STC promoters returned to the communities selected and conducted a survey identifying families to be benefited with temporary shelter.

Selection of individual beneficiaries were based on the following criteria:

1. Family must have lost their home as a result of the earthquake.
2. Family must not have received shelters from other organization (some families already had received housing from the Armed Forces).
3. Families must be willing to work on shelter construction

Below is the table of communities and number of shelters built/family beneficiaries.

**SAVE THE CHILDREN / DESARROLLO JUVENIL COMUNITARIO**  
**USAID- OFDA Temporary Shelter Project**

Table 1.

List of total number of shelter built per community (one shelter per family)

Department	Municipality	Community	Temporary Shelters	Total Department
CUSCATLAN	El Carmen	San Antonio	404	
		Candelaria /La Lateada	86	
		Soledad Santa Lucia	32	
	Total Municipality		522	
	San Rafael Cedros	El Copinol	85	
		Soledad	81	
		El Espinal	166	
		Jiboa	68	
		Cerro Colorado	98	
	Total Municipality		498	
	El Rosario	Veracruz	137	
		El Calvario	171	
		El Centro	79	
		San Martín	147	
		El Amatillo	175	
	Total Municipality		709	
	San Cristobal	San Antonio	45	
		San Francisco	134	
		La Virgen	111	
		San José	48	
	Total Municipality		338	
	San Pedro Perulapan	Huiziltepeque	222	
		Miraflores	209	
Santa Anita		65		
El Limón		50		
Tecoloco Abajo		79		
El Rodeo		125		
Total Municipality		750		
Tenancinago	Ajuluco	35		
	Huiziltepeque/Hacda. Nva.	38		
	Las Crucitas	40		
Total Municipality		113		
				2930
SAN SALVADOR	Tonacatepeque	Los Heroes	4	4
	Total Municipality		4	
SAN VICENTE	Santo Domingo	Talpetate	68	
		Iscanales	53	
		Caserio Refugio	36	
		Caserio Rodriguez	12	
Total Municipality		169	169	
CABAÑAS	Ilobasco	Nanastepeque	72	72
	Total Municipality		72	
	Total Provisional Shelters			3175

	Municipalities	Communities
Cuscatlán	6	26
San Salvador	1	1
San Vicente	1	4
Cabañas	1	1

#### **4. Problems Encountered / Lessons Learned**

1. Upon final approval of the grant, Save the Children went to re-certify the need in each of the proposed communities. In various areas where Save the Children was planning to build shelters there was doubt about the extent of coverage on the part of the Local Social Development Fund (FIS-DL) the Archbishop of San Salvador, as well as the Armed Forces. All three organizations announced a massive temporary shelter campaign with nearly 170,000 temporary housing units at the same time Save the Children began the temporary shelter project. For this reason Save the Children redirected part of the 2,500 units to areas that were not being benefited in an effort to avoid duplication. Finding suitable locations with real need that were not being helped by other organizations was perhaps the biggest obstacle to the timely completion of the shelter project. However the extra effort undertaken to seek out poor and underserved rural areas of Cuscatlán allowed the project to help families with the greatest need.
2. Another obstacle to locating communities and working in underserved areas was the competitiveness and patronymic approach sometimes found within local governments and communities leaders. Many communities are divided along political or religious lines, and seeking cooperative from all sides for a single project was not always easy. The OFDA field promoters tried their best to select beneficiary families using a need evaluation criterion that would not allow for political or religious interference.
3. The availability of materials produced many setbacks in project implementation. As noted above, wood was scarce from the beginning and as time went on metal become more difficult to purchase unless in bulk. Through strong negotiation and a willingness to receive partial delivery from various purveyors, Save the Children was able to overcome this problem.
4. Another difficulty with the completion of the shelter project was the limit on the number of shelters that could not be welded and painted per day in Save the Children's warehouse. Initial painting procedures as well as paint brand specs changed with time as Save the Children investigated the most efficient way to complete the shelter units. Early production was estimated at 45 shelters per day, a quantity that nearly doubled by the end of the project.
5. Electricity also proved to be a stumbling block for the shelter project. The warehouse that we initially rented was not equipped with 220-volt lines for the heavy machinery necessary for metal work. Save the Children retooled the electrical infrastructure of the warehouse to accommodate the welding needs, but there where also frequent power outages that halted production and could not be avoided.

6. One lesson learned throughout this process is that agencies should expect to have difficulty in obtaining construction materials when in an emergency situation. Demand most definitely drives availability and price.
7. It would have been helpful if the various organizations working in shelter construction would have coordinated better to avoid duplication of efforts and construction.

**Earthquakes disaster photos.**

**Hardest hit rural areas.**

Disaster caused by two earthquakes that struck El Salvador, Central America on January 13 and February 13 2001. With 1.2 million people left homeless.

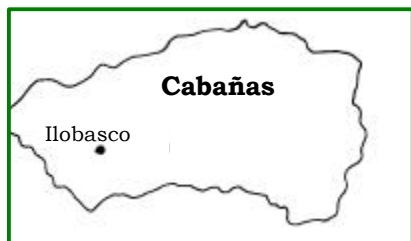




**Photos of Provisional Shelters**



## Location of Beneficiary Families



**Department of Cuscatlán**

Municipalities

Amount of Beneficiaries Families

Ilobasco

72

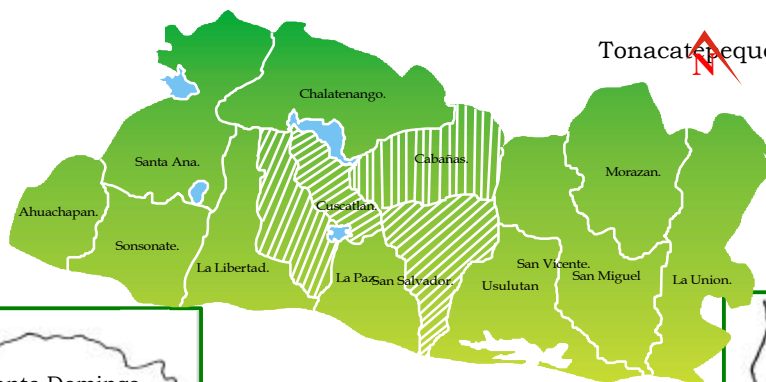


**Department of San Salvador**

Municipalities

Amount of Beneficiaries Families

4



**Department of San Vicente**

Municipalities

Amount of Beneficiaries Families

Santo Domingo

169



**Department of Cuscatlán**

Municipalities

Amount of Beneficiaries Families

El Carmen

522

San Rafael Cedros

498

El Rosario

709

San Cristobal

388

San Pedro Perulapán

750

Tenancingo

113

Total amount

2,930